

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.:	§	Docket No.: P02149US0
	§	
Filing Date: 04/30/01	§	
	§	Examiner:
Applicant: Mårten Stjernström	§	
	§	
Title: Liquid Microvolume Handling System	§	Art Unit:
	§	

Box Application
Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims prior to examination.

In the claims:

Please substitute the following amended claims contained herein for claims 1-9 that were in the original PCT application.

1. (Amended) A microfluidic device comprising a microchannel, providing for liquid contact between an open microarea or chamber suitable for carrying a microvolume of a solvent and a reservoir for the solvent, said reservoir and said microchannel being adapted so that solvent evaporated from said microarea is able to be continuously replaced by solvent from the reservoir through said microchannel.

2. (Amended) The microfluidic device according to claim 1 wherein

a) said reservoir is positioned so as to create an overpressure in the solvent which is in equilibrium with the interfacial pressure difference across the curved surface of the droplet, or

b) said reservoir is connected to pump means that either facilitate replacement of solvent by pumping solvent or pressurising the reservoir.

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